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ABSTRACT

A follow-up survey was conducted of the Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) graduates in summer term 1995, fall semester 1995, and spring semester 1996 to determine what jobs they had obtained, which schools they were attending, how much they earned, how satisfied they were with their employment or schooling, and what impact PVCC had upon their careers and education. Some of the major findings of the study are as follows: (1) an overwhelming majority of respondents (98.9%) indicated that they were satisfied with the quality of their academic programs at PVCC; (2) nearly nine out of ten respondents supported themselves through wage earnings while attending PVCC; (3) the mean grade point average of the 1995-96 graduates who transferred to postsecondary institutions was 3.32; (4) eight out of ten enrolled respondents indicated that the credits they earned at PVCC transferred as expected; (5) about 80% of survey respondents were employed at the time of the survey and around 82% of the employed respondents worked full time; and (6) about half of employed respondents felt that their degree from PVCC helped them to obtain their current job. (Includes four appendices.) (Author/JA)

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ED 442 511

# Follow-up Survey of PVCC Graduates Class of 1995-96

*Research Report No. 3-2000*
*March 2000*

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*Charlottesville, Virginia*

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# Follow-Up Survey of PVCC Graduates Of the Class of 1995-96

Research Report No. 3-2000
March 2000

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## Introduction

Since 1974, Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) has conducted annual surveys of its graduates. Questions are asked concerning jobs, career satisfaction, salaries, study at other colleges and universities, and the impact PVCC has had upon the careers and further education of its graduates. Information from the survey is used to improve academic programs and college services.

This study reports the results of the 21st graduate survey. The survey was conducted for graduates of the class of 1995-96. The class of 1995-96 includes those students graduating from PVCC during Summer Term 1995, Fall Semester 1995, and Spring Semester 1996. In terms of format and content, the 1995-96 Graduate Survey is similar to previous studies. All information is descriptive in nature and is presented in narrative, tabular, and graphic form.

## Methodology

During the spring of 1997, the Office of Institutional Research mailed surveys and cover letters to 229 graduates of the class of 1995-96. Surveys were mailed approximately eight months after graduation to allow time for graduates to secure a job, or to enroll in a college or university. Those not responding to the initial mailing of the follow-up survey were contacted two additional times.

Of the 229 graduates, 94 returned completed surveys for a response rate of 41.0%. This number represents the lowest response rate of the 1990s (1990-91, 54.2%; 1991-92, 46.4%; 1992-93, 52.6%; 1993-94, 50.4%; 1994-95, 41.1%). In previous years, follow-up telephone surveys were conducted in an effort to increase the response rate. However,

for the class of 1995-96, telephone surveys were not conducted; therefore the response rate for this year is lower than usual.

The results of the 1995-96 Graduate Survey are presented in Appendix A. The presentation of results for each question differs depending on the type of data obtained. For example, categorical listings, frequencies, and percentages are provided for nominal level data. Response frequencies, adjusted percentages, and histograms are provided for ordinal level data. Finally, descriptive statistics such as the mean, median, and mode are provided for continuous data.

At the end of the 1995-96 Follow-Up Graduate Survey, graduates were invited to offer comments or suggestions concerning any aspect of their PVCC experience. Of particular interest are ways that PVCC could improve its curriculum and services. These comments are contained in Appendix B. Finally, copies of the cover letter and the survey instrument are provided in appendices C and D, respectively.

## Demographic Characteristics

In addition to determining satisfaction with college services, the 1995-96 Graduate Survey examined demographic characteristics of survey respondents. The primary use of such data is to determine whether the characteristics of respondents are representative of the graduate population. Toward that end, several categories of demographic information are presented, including sex, race, and age of survey respondents.

Survey respondents were about as likely to be female as were 1995-96 graduates in general. As can be seen in Table 1, more than six out of ten survey respondents were female (61.5%), and slightly less than four out of ten (38.5%) were male. These

percentages were similar to the percentages of males and females in the overall graduate population.

Table 1: Sex of Survey Respondents

| Sex | Respondents | Percent | Graduates | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Male | 37 | 38.5% | 90 | 39.3% |
| Female | 59 | 61.5% | 139 | 60.7% |
| Total | 96 | 100.0% | 229 | 100.0% |

Table 2 compares the race of survey respondents to that of students in the overall graduate population. The table shows that survey respondents were slightly less likely to be African American and were slightly more likely to be Asian than were 1995-96 graduates in general. While 8.7% of the entire 1995-96 graduate population were African Americans, only 6.3% of survey respondents were.

Table 2: Race of Survey Respondents

| Race | Respondents | Percent | Graduates | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| White | 84 | 87.5% | 199 | 86.9% |
| Black | 6 | 6.3% | 20 | 8.7% |
| Am. India | 1 | 1.0% | 2 | 0.9% |
| Asian | 4 | 4.2% | 4 | 1.7% |
| Hispanic | 0 | 0.0% | 1 | 0.4% |
| Other | 1 | 1.0% | 3 | 1.3% |
| Total | 96 | 100.0% | 229 | 100.0% |

Although Asian students comprised only 1.7% of 1995-96 graduates, 4.2% of survey respondents were Asian. The percentage of White survey respondents (87.5%) was similar to the percentage of White students in the overall graduate population (86.9%).

Survey respondents tended to be slightly older than were graduates of the class of 1995-96. The average age of survey respondents was 32.1, compared to an average age of 31.1 for all graduates. As can be seen in Table 3, nearly two-thirds of survey

Table 3: Age of Survey Respondents

| Age | Respondents | Percent | Graduates | Percent |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 17 & Under | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| 18 - 21 | 11 | 11.5% | 22 | 9.6% |
| 22 - 24 | 12 | 12.5% | 48 | 21.0% |
| 25 - 34 | 37 | 38.5% | 84 | 36.7% |
| 35 - 44 | 26 | 27.1% | 54 | 23.6% |
| 45 - 59 | 10 | 10.4% | 21 | 9.2% |
| 60 & Over | 0 | 0.0% | 0 | 0.0% |
| Total | 96 | 100.0% | 229 | 100.0% |

respondents (65.6%) were between the ages of 25 and 44. Only about 60 percent of graduates fell within that range.

In summary, the majority of survey respondents were white females between the ages of 25 and 44. Survey respondents tended to be slightly older and were less likely to be African American than 1995-96 graduates in general. For the most part, however, the demographic characteristics of survey respondents were similar to those of 1995-96 graduates, suggesting that survey responses are representative of the overall graduate population.

## PVCC Experience

One of the primary aims of this study is to determine whether graduates of the Class of 1995-96 were satisfied with their PVCC experience. Toward that end, the questions contained in Section One of the survey were designed to address four main aspects of PVCC experience. Were graduates satisfied with the college services provided by PVCC? Were graduates satisfied with their academic programs? Do graduates perceive that attending PVCC contributed to their skill development? How did graduates finance their PVCC education?

*College Services*

For the most part, 1995-96 graduates were very satisfied with the services provided by PVCC. As can be seen in Question 1, more than nine out of ten survey respondents were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the college's library (96.7%), registration services (95.6%), computing lab (95.5%), and learning center (90.7%). Over 80 percent of respondents were satisfied with financial aid (84.9%), student activities (84.4%), and personal counseling (80.5%) provided by the college. About three-fourths of respondents were either very much or somewhat satisfied with career services (76.6%).

In addition to assessing graduate satisfaction with college services, the data obtained in Question 1 can be used to determine the level of service usage. This is accomplished by reviewing the number of "Not applicable" survey responses. As can be seen in Question 1, all survey respondents utilized the college's registration services (100.0%). More than nine out of ten survey respondents made use of the college's library (96.8%) and computing lab (94.7%) services; and more than eight out of ten utilized personal counseling (84.6%) and learning center (82.4%) services. Only six out of ten respondents indicated that they had participated in student activities at PVCC (62.4%); and only about one-half of respondents took advantage of the college's career services (51.7%) or financial aid services (50.5%).

Graduates were satisfied with the overall quality of college services. As can be seen in Question 2, an overwhelming majority of graduates (98.9%) were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the quality of services provided by PVCC.

*Academic Program*

In addition to college services, the 1995-96 Graduate Survey was designed to determine whether graduates were satisfied with the quality of their academic programs. As can be seen in Question 3, more than nine out of ten survey respondents were either very much or somewhat satisfied with grading (99.9%), instruction (99.0%), faculty (98.9%), learning environment (98.9%), course materials (96.8%%), and course availability (94.6%) at PVCC. More than eight out of ten respondents (85.8%) were satisfied with academic advising at the college.

Graduates also seemed satisfied with faculty-student interaction at PVCC. As can be seen in Question 4, more than nine out of ten survey respondents (94.5%) were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with their relationships with faculty outside of class.

Finally, graduates reported high levels of satisfaction with the quality of academic programs at PVCC. As can be seen in Question 5, an overwhelming majority of survey respondents (98.9%) indicated they were very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the quality of their academic program at PVCC. Only one graduate (1.1%) indicated dissatisfaction.

*Skill Development*

For the most part, graduates were pleased with the skills they developed while attending PVCC. As can be seen in Question 6, about nine out of ten survey respondents indicated that their PVCC education had contributed either very much or somewhat to their ability to research a topic (91.1%) and to solve problems (89.3%). More than eight out of ten indicated that the college had contributed to their ability to write clearly and

effectively (87.9%), to reason logically (87.2%), to understand and use math (87.2%), to understand and use computers (85.1%), and to speak clearly and effectively (82.6%).

Many graduates believed that their PVCC experience had prepared them to become responsible citizens. As can be seen in Question 7, seven out of ten survey respondents (71.7%) indicated that their PVCC education had prepared them for responsible citizenship.

*College Financing*

Wage earnings were a major source of financial support for many PVCC graduates. As can be seen in Question 8, nearly nine out of ten respondents (89.3%) were employed while attending PVCC. Many who worked while attending PVCC were employed in full-time jobs. In fact, over half of all employed respondents (51.8%) indicated that they worked more than 30 hours per week (Question 9).

Relatively few graduates borrowed money to finance their PVCC education. As can be seen in Question 10, only about two out of ten survey respondents (21.1%) indicated that they borrowed money to pay for tuition, books, and other educational expenses while attending PVCC. About a third of those who received student loans (33.5%), borrowed more than $5,000 to finance their education (Question 11).

## Further Education

An important aspect of graduate surveys is to determine how well PVCC graduates perform at the institutions to which they transfer. The questions contained in Section II of the graduate survey were designed to address several questions concerning further education. What percentage of PVCC graduates continued their education at transfer institutions? What types of institutions did they attend? What was their purpose

for attending a transfer institution? How well did PVCC graduates perform at transfer institutions? Did PVCC do a good job of preparing graduates academically for transfer? Were graduates satisfied with the transfer process?

*Enrollment Status*

Many 1995-96 PVCC graduates chose to continue their education at transfer institutions. As can be seen in Question 1, nearly half of all survey respondents (49.4%) were enrolled in college at the time of the survey. Of those who were not enrolled, about four out of ten (40.4%) indicated that they had plans to enroll during the coming year (Question 2). As can be seen in Question 3, more than half of enrolled survey respondents (56.2%) were enrolled as full-time students.

*Institutional Type*

In addition to enrollment status, the 1995-96 Graduate Survey sought to identify the types of institutions that PVCC graduates attend. Many graduates chose to continue their education at public, four-year colleges located within the Commonwealth of Virginia. As can be seen in Question 4, about eight out of ten survey respondents attended public (81.0%), four-year (79.1%) institutions; and all but one enrolled respondent (97.5%) attended an in-state institution.

As can be seen in Question 5, nearly half of all enrolled respondents (44.0%) chose to continue their education at James Madison University, Mary Baldwin, or The University of Virginia. Other four-year colleges were Averett College (8.0%), Old Dominion University (6.0%), Mary Washington College (4.0%), Virginia Commonwealth University (4.0%), and Virginia Tech (4.0%).

Not all graduates choose to continue their education at four-year colleges or universities. Nearly one-fourth of enrolled respondents (22.0%) attended community colleges or trade schools after graduating from PVCC.

*Educational Purpose*

One of the principal aims of the survey is to determine the educational goals of PVCC transfer students. As can be seen in Question 6, an overwhelming majority of survey respondents (93.7%) indicated that their purpose in attending college is to obtain a bachelor's degree. Only three graduates identified a goal other than obtaining a bachelor's degree as their primary purpose for attending college (see Question 7).

As in previous surveys, graduates chose to pursue a wide range of fields of study at the four-year institutions to which they transferred. As can be seen in Question 8, the most popular majors were Business Administration (23.5%), Computer Science (7.8%), History (5.9%), Political Science (5.9%), Finance and Marketing (5.9%), and Art (5.9%). Following these were Social Science (3.9%), English (3.9%), Sociology (3.9%), Math (3.9%), and Nursing (3.9%).

*Academic Performance*

Academically, 1995-96 graduates performed quite well at the institutions to which they transferred. As can be seen in Question 9, enrolled respondents earned an average of 26.97 credit hours at their new colleges. The lowest number of credit hours earned was 4.00, and the highest 90.00. As can be seen in Question 10, the average grade point average (GPA) at the colleges or universities they selected was 3.32. The lowest GPA reported was 1.80 and the highest 4.00.

*Transfer Preparation*

For the most part, 1995-96 graduates were pleased with the level of academic preparation they received at PVCC. As can be seen in Question 12, nine out of ten survey respondents (90.1%) indicated that their degree program at PVCC prepared them either very much or somewhat for their bachelor's program. Most graduates believed that they were better prepared or about as well prepared academically as students who had enrolled at their new schools as freshmen. Nearly half of survey respondents (48.5%) felt that they were better prepared, and more than one-third (37.8%) felt that they were about as well prepared as their peers (see Question 13). Only 13.5% indicated that they felt less well prepared.

Most graduates were quite satisfied with academic preparation. As can be seen in Question 14, nearly nine out of ten respondents (86.9%) rated the level of academic preparation they received at PVCC as either excellent or good. Around 4.2% felt their academic preparation was fair, and 1.4% felt it was poor.

Graduates were asked to compare the academic environment they experienced at PVCC with the learning environment at their new four-year institution. Specifically students were asked to rate several aspects of the learning environment, including student competitiveness, friendliness of faculty and staff, individual attention shown to students, quality of instruction, and strictness of grading practices.

PVCC compared very favorably with transfer schools with respect to faculty friendliness, individualized attention and quality of instruction. As can be seen in Question 15, about 9 out of 10 survey respondents indicated that PVCC has more or about the same degree of faculty friendliness (92.1%), individual attention shown to students (89.4%), and quality of instruction (86.9%). Survey respondents were less

enthusiastic about the degree of student competitiveness and grading practices. Less than seven out of ten respondents (68.6%) believed that the degree of student competitiveness at PVCC was on par with their transfer institution. Fewer than six out of ten (57.9%) felt that the strictness of grading practices at PVCC equaled or exceeded those at their new school.

*Transfer Satisfaction*

In addition to preparation, the graduate survey sought to gauge graduate satisfaction with the transfer process. Overall, 1995-96 graduates were pleased with the transfer process. As can be seen in Question 16, eight out of ten enrolled respondents (80.5%) indicated that the credits they earned at PVCC transferred as expected. More than three-fourths of enrolled respondents (77.5%) indicated that the institution to which they transferred was their first choice (Question 19). Only one out of ten respondents (10.1%) transferred to an institution that was not among his or her top three choices. Finally, more than nine out of ten respondents (93.8%) who transferred to public four-year colleges in Virginia were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the transfer process (Question 20).

For the most part, graduates took advantage of the transfer services offered by PVCC. As can be seen in Question 21, about six out of ten respondents (59.4%) received assistance from PVCC in transferring to their current college. Most graduates who received transfer assistance were pleased with the quality of that support. More than seven out of ten survey respondents rated the quality of assistance they received from academic advisors (74.9%), their academic programs (74.9%), and faculty (71.0%) as either excellent or good.

## Employment

An important indicator of how well PVCC prepares its students is how well graduates perform in the workplace. The questions contained in Section Three of the 1995-96 Graduate Survey were designed to measure several aspects of graduate employment. Did graduates obtain gainful employment upon leaving PVCC? In what kinds of occupations were graduates employed? Were graduates employed in occupations related to their degree programs at PVCC? Did the skills that graduates acquired at PVCC benefit their performance in the workplace? Did PVCC do a good job of preparing graduates for the world of work?

### *Employment Status*

Many 1995-96 graduates obtained gainful employment upon leaving PVCC. As can be seen in Question 1, about eight out of ten survey respondents (79.6%) were employed at the time of the survey. More than eight out of ten employed respondents (81.7%) worked full-time (Question 3). More than three-fourths of survey respondents were employed in jobs related to their field of study at PVCC. Of those who were unemployed at the time of the survey, nearly six out of ten (58.4%) were not seeking employment (Question 2).

### *Occupation*

As in previous surveys, 1995-96 PVCC graduates were employed in a wide range of occupations. The most frequently cited positions were Registered Nurse or Nurse Manager (24.3%), Administrative Assistant (8.6%), Retail Clerk (5.7%), and Sales Associate (4.3%). As can be seen in Question 6, nearly six out of ten employed respondents were employed either as professional specialty workers (29.0%) or in an

administrative support capacity (29.0%). Nine respondents (12.3%) were employed as service workers, and six were employed as marketing/sales representatives (8.2%) or technicians (8.2%).

For the most part, graduates were employed in occupations that were related to their fields of study at PVCC. In Question 7, more than three-fourths of survey respondents (76.8%) indicated that their PVCC degree program was either very much or somewhat related to their current occupations.

*Preparation for Work*

One way of assessing the impact of a PVCC education is to ask graduates whether their PVCC education provided them the tools they need to be effective in the workplace. As can be seen in Question 8, nearly eight out of ten survey respondents (78.1%) felt that the skills acquired in their PVCC degree programs were either very much or somewhat helpful in their performance in the workplace.

Another way of gauging the impact of a PVCC education with respect to career preparation is to determine whether PVCC graduates are better prepared academically than other employees in the same career field. As can be seen in Question 9, an overwhelming majority of survey respondents (97.3%) felt that they were either better prepared or about as well prepared as other employees beginning careers in their job field. Less than 5% of respondents felt that they were not as well prepared as other employees within the same career fields.

Finally, graduates were asked to rate academic preparation for work. For the most part, graduates were pleased with the level of academic preparation provided by PVCC. As can be seen in Question 10, more than eight out of ten survey respondents

(84.9%) indicated that the academic preparation they received at PVCC was either excellent or good. Only two respondents (3.0%) indicated that the academic preparation they received was poor.

*Job Satisfaction*

As with previous graduating classes, job satisfaction among 1995-96 graduates was quite high. As can be seen in Question 14, more than three-fourths of survey respondents (77.5%) reported that they were either very satisfied or satisfied with their current jobs. Only two respondents (2.8%) indicated their jobs were unsatisfying.

Closely related to job satisfaction is career stability. Those satisfied with their jobs are likely to continue working within the same career field, while those dissatisfied will probably change not only jobs, but careers, as well. Many 1995-96 graduates intended to pursue their jobs as long-range careers. As can be seen in Question 15, nearly six out of ten survey respondents (58.5%) indicated they would pursue their current jobs as long-range careers.

*Career Advancement*

Attending PVCC had a positive impact on the job prospects of many 1995-96 graduates. As can be seen in Question 16, nearly three-fourths of all employed survey respondents (73.6%) obtained their current jobs either while attending, or after attending, PVCC. Nearly half of employed respondents (48.6%) felt that their degree helped them to obtain their present job (Question 17).

Some graduates believed that their PVCC experience had a favorable impact on career advancement. As can be seen in Question 18, nearly two out of ten survey

respondents (19.1%) felt that their PVCC degree had helped them obtain a promotion in their current job.

*Employment Assistance*

Few graduates received career placement assistance from PVCC in obtaining jobs. As can be seen in Question 20, less than one in ten employed respondents (5.7%) indicated that they received assistance from PVCC in securing employment.

*Graduate Salaries*

Many 1995-96 graduates believed that attending PVCC had a positive impact on earnings. As can be seen in Question 22, the average annual salary earned by employed survey respondents was $24,784, and the median salary was $27,000. The highest salary reported was $40,000, and the lowest $7,000. On average, graduates estimated that their salaries would have been $4,549 lower if they had not attended PVCC (Question 23).

## Conclusions

Major findings of this study included:

- Graduates were very satisfied with the quality of college services. An overwhelming majority of survey respondents (98.9%) were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the quality of services provided by PVCC. An overwhelming majority of respondents (98.9%) indicated that they were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the quality of their academic program at PVCC.

- Graduates were pleased with the skills they developed while attending PVCC. More than eight out of ten respondents believed that their PVCC education had contributed to their ability to research a topic (91.1%), solve problems (89.3%), write clearly and effectively (87.9%), understand and use math (87.2%), reason logically (87.2%), understand and use computers (85.1%), and speak clearly and effectively (82.6%).

- Wage earnings were a primary source of financial support for 1995-96 graduates. Nearly nine out of ten respondents (89.3%) were employed while attending PVCC. Only about two out of ten respondents (21.1%) borrowed money to finance their PVCC education.

- About half of all respondents (49.4%) were enrolled in a postsecondary institution at the time of the survey. Most attended public (81.0%), four-year (79.1%) institutions located within the Commonwealth of Virginia (97.5%). In fact, nearly half (44.0%) of all enrolled respondents chose to continue their education at James Madison University, Mary Baldwin College, or The University of Virginia.

- About eight out of ten respondents (79.2%) felt that their bachelor's program was very much or somewhat related to their PVCC degree program. The most popular fields of study were Business Administration (23.5%), Computer Science (7.8%), Art (5.9%), Finance (5.9%), History (5.9%), and Political Science (5.9%).

- Academically, 1995-96 graduates performed quite well at the postsecondary institutions to which they transferred. Enrolled respondents earned a mean grade point average of 3.32 at their respective colleges.

- For the most part, graduates were pleased with the level of academic preparation they received at PVCC. More than eight out of ten enrolled respondents (86.3%) believed that they were either better prepared, or about as well prepared, as students who started at transfer institutions as freshmen. More than eight out of ten respondents (86.9%) felt that the level of academic preparation they received at PVCC was either excellent or good.

- Graduates were satisfied with the transfer process. Eight out of ten enrolled respondents (80.5%) indicated that the credits they earned at PVCC transferred as expected. More than three-fourths of enrolled respondents (77.5%) indicated that the institution to which they transferred was their first choice. More than nine out of ten enrolled respondents (93.8%) who transferred to public four-year colleges in Virginia were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the transfer process.

- For the most part, graduates were pleased with the quality of transfer assistance received at PVCC. Nearly six out of ten enrolled respondents (59.4%) received assistance from PVCC in transferring to their current college. Of those who received assistance, more than seven out of ten rated the quality of assistance they received from academic advisors (74.9%), their academic programs (74.9%), and faculty (71.0%) as either excellent or good.

- Nearly eight out of ten survey respondents (79.6%) were employed at the time of the survey. More than eight out of ten employed respondents (81.7%) worked full time. More than three-fourths of survey respondents (76.8%) were employed in jobs related to their fields of study at PVCC.

- Graduates were employed in a wide range of occupations. The most frequently cited positions were Registered Nurse or Nurse Manager (24.3%), Administrative Assistant (8.6%), Retail Clerk (5.7%), and Sales Associate (4.3%). More than three-fourths of survey respondents (77.5%) were either very satisfied or satisfied with their current

jobs; and nearly six out of ten (58.5%) planned to pursue their current jobs as long-range careers.

- For the most part, 1995-96 graduates felt that PVCC provided them with the tools necessary to be effective in the workplace. An overwhelming majority (97.3%) felt that they were either better prepared, or about as well prepared, as others beginning careers in their job field. More than eight out of ten respondents (84.9%) indicated that the academic preparation they received at PVCC was either excellent or good.

- Attending PVCC had a positive impact on the job prospects and earnings of many 1995-96 graduates. About half of employed respondents (48.6%) felt that their degree from PVCC helped them to obtain their current job, and nearly two out of ten (19.1%) believed that their degree helped them to obtain a promotion in their current job. The average annual salary earned by employed respondents was $24,784. On average, respondents estimated that their salaries would have been $4,549 lower if they had not attended PVCC.

Appendix A: Survey Results

# Graduate Survey Results
# Class of 1995-96

## Section I: PVCC Experience

**1. To what extent were you satisfied with each of the following college services provided by PVCC?**

**a. Career services**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 16 | 17.0 | ******* |
| Somewhat | 20 | 21.3 | ********* |
| Very little | 9 | 9.6 | **** |
| Not at all | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| Not applicable | 44 | 46.8 | ********************* |
| No response | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**b. Computing Lab**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 48 | 51.1 | ********************** |
| Somewhat | 36 | 38.3 | ***************** |
| Very little | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| Not at all | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| Not applicable | 5 | 5.3 | ** |
| No response | 1 | 1.1 | |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**c. Financial aid**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 27 | 28.7 | ************ |
| Somewhat | 12 | 12.8 | ****** |
| Very little | 5 | 5.3 | ** |
| Not at all | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| Not applicable | 45 | 47.9 | ********************* |
| No response | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**d. Learning Center**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 37 | 39.4 | ***************** |
| Somewhat | 31 | 33.0 | ************** |
| Very little | 5 | 5.3 | ** |
| Not at all | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| Not applicable | 16 | 17.0 | ******* |
| No response | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**e. Library services**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 55 | 58.5 | ************************ |
| Somewhat | 32 | 34.0 | *************** |
| Very little | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| Not at all | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Not applicable | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| No response | 1 | 1.1 | |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

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**f. Personal counseling**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 32 | 34.0 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 30 | 31.9 | ********* |
| Very little | 11 | 11.7 | **** |
| Not at all | 4 | 4.3 | * |
| Not applicable | 14 | 14.9 | ***** |
| No response | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**g. Registration services**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 50 | 53.2 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 38 | 40.4 | ******** |
| Very little | 4 | 4.3 | * |
| Not at all | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Not applicable | 0 | 0.0 | |
| No response | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**h. Student activities**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 17 | 18.1 | ****** |
| Somewhat | 32 | 34.0 | ********** |
| Very little | 6 | 6.4 | ** |
| Not at all | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| Not applicable | 35 | 37.2 | ********** |
| No response | 1 | 1.1 | |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**2. Overall, how satisfied were you with the quality of college services provided by PVCC?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 70 | 74.5 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 21 | 22.3 | ******** |
| Very little | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Not at all | 1 | 1.1 | |
| No response | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**3. To what extent were you satisfied with each of the following aspects of your academic pro**

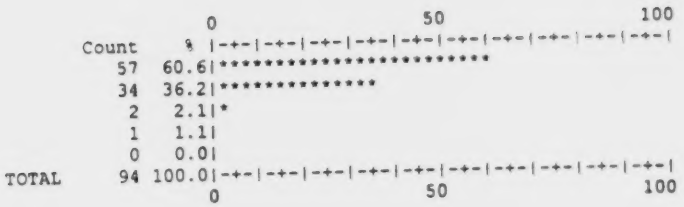
**a. Academic advising**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 47 | 50.0 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 32 | 34.0 | ********** |
| Very little | 9 | 9.6 | **** |
| Not at all | 4 | 4.3 | * |
| No response | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

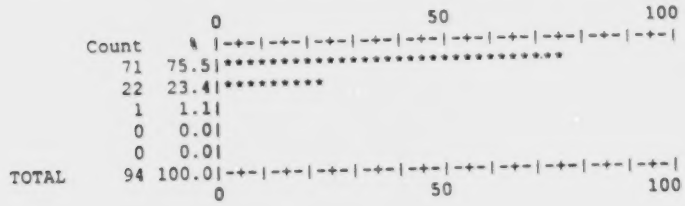
**b. Course availability**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 54 | 57.4 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 34 | 36.2 | ********** |
| Very little | 4 | 4.3 | * |
| Not at all | 1 | 1.1 | |
| No response | 1 | 1.1 | |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

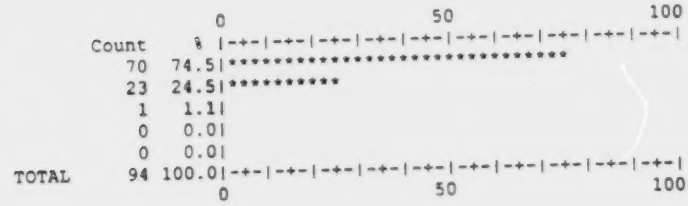
**c. Course materials**



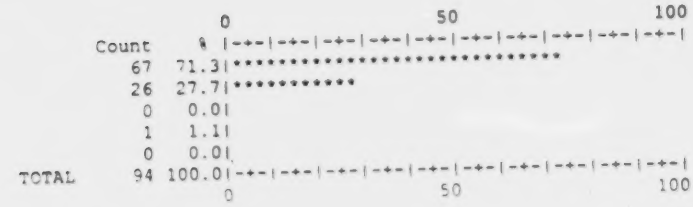

**d. Faculty**



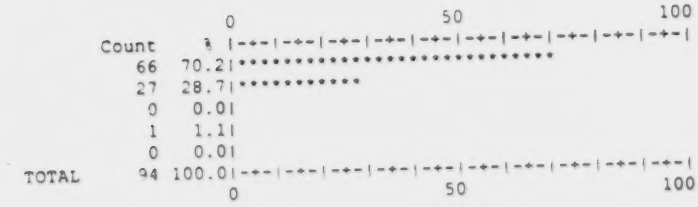

**e. Grading**



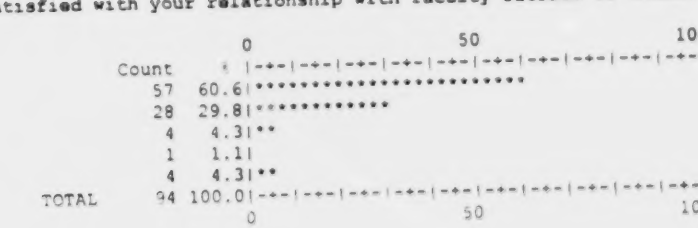

**f. Instruction**




**g. Learning environment**




4. To what extent were you satisfied with your relationship with faculty outside of class?

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**5. Overall, how satisfied were you with the quality of your academic program at FVCC?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 75 | 79.8 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 18 | 19.1 | ** |
| Very little | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Not at all | 1 | 1.1 | |
| No response | 0 | 0.0 | |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |

**6. To what extent did your FVCC education contribute to your ability to:**

**a. Reason logically**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 46 | 48.9 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 36 | 38.3 | ******** |
| Very little | 9 | 9.6 | ** |
| Not at all | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| No response | 0 | 0.0 | |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |

**b. Research a topic**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 49 | 52.1 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 33 | 35.1 | ******** |
| Very little | 5 | 5.3 | * |
| Not at all | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| No response | 4 | 4.3 | * |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |

**c. Solve problems**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 43 | 45.7 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 40 | 42.6 | ********** |
| Very little | 9 | 9.6 | ** |
| Not at all | 1 | 1.1 | |
| No response | 1 | 1.1 | |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |

**d. Speak clearly & effectively**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 36 | 38.3 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 40 | 42.6 | ********** |
| Very little | 11 | 11.7 | ** |
| Not at all | 5 | 5.3 | * |
| No response | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |

**e. Understand & use computers**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 38 | 40.4 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 42 | 44.7 | ********** |
| Very little | 10 | 10.6 | ** |
| Not at all | 4 | 4.3 | * |
| No response | 0 | 0.0 | |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |

**f. Understand & use math**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 36 | 38.3 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 46 | 48.9 | ********** |
| Very little | 6 | 6.4 | *** |
| Not at all | 6 | 6.4 | *** |
| No response | 0 | 0.0 | |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**g. Write clearly & effectively**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 39 | 41.5 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 41 | 43.6 | ********** |
| Very little | 7 | 7.4 | *** |
| Not at all | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| No response | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**7. To what extent did your FVCC education prepare you for responsible citizenship (e.g., make you better informed about your community and the political process)?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 23 | 24.5 | ********** |
| Somewhat | 43 | 45.7 | ********** |
| Very little | 20 | 21.3 | ********** |
| Not at all | 6 | 6.4 | *** |
| No response | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**8. Were you employed while attending FVCC?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 83 | 88.3 | ********** |
| No | 10 | 10.6 | **** |
| No response | 1 | 1.1 | |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**9. If yes, how many hours per week on average did you work?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 01 to 10 hours | 5 | 5.3 | ** |
| 11 to 20 hours | 14 | 14.9 | ****** |
| 21 to 30 hours | 20 | 21.3 | ********** |
| 31 to 40 hours | 32 | 34.0 | ********** |
| 41 to 50 hours | 11 | 11.7 | ***** |
| Over 50 hours | 1 | 1.1 | |
| No response | 11 | 11.7 | ***** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**10. Did you borrow money to pay for tuition, books, and other educational expenses while attending FVCC?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 19 | 20.2 | ******** |
| No | 71 | 75.5 | ********** |
| No response | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

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**11. If yes, how much did you borrow?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| $ 1 - $1,000 | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| $1,001 - $2,000 | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| $2,001 - $3,000 | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| $3,001 - $4,000 | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| $4,001 - $5,000 | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Over $5,000 | 6 | 6.4 | *** |
| No response | 76 | 80.9 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

*Section II: Further Education*

**1. Are you currently enrolled in college?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 43 | 45.7 | ********** |
| No | 44 | 46.8 | ********** |
| No response | 7 | 7.4 | *** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**2. If not, do you have plans to enroll during the coming year?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 19 | 20.2 | ******** |
| No | 28 | 29.8 | ********** |
| No response | 47 | 50.0 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**3. Are you attending college full-time or part-time?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Full-time | 27 | 28.7 | ********** |
| Part-time | 21 | 22.3 | ********** |
| No response | 46 | 48.9 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**4. What type of college are you attending?**

**a. Two-year or four-year?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2-year | 6 | 6.4 | *** |
| 4-year | 38 | 40.4 | ********** |
| Other | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| No response | 46 | 48.9 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**b. Public or private?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Public | 30 | 31.9 | ********** |
| Private | 7 | 7.4 | *** |
| No response | 57 | 60.6 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**c. In-state or out-of-state?**

| | | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| In-state | | 37 | 39.4 | ********** |
| Out-of-state | | 1 | 1.1 | |
| No response | | 56 | 59.6 | ********** |
| | TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**5. What college are you attending?**

| Institution | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Four-Year Colleges: | | |
| James Madison University | 9 | 18.0% |
| Mary Baldwin | 7 | 14.0% |
| University of Virginia | 6 | 12.0% |
| Averitt College | 4 | 8.0% |
| Old Dominion University | 3 | 6.0% |
| Mary Washington College | 2 | 4.0% |
| Virginia Commonwealth University | 2 | 4.0% |
| Virginia Polytehnical Institute | 2 | 4.0% |
| Clinch Valley College | 1 | 2.0% |
| Eastern Menonite University | 1 | 2.0% |
| Liberty University | 1 | 2.0% |
| William & Mary | 1 | 2.0% |
| Two-Year Colleges: | | |
| Piedmont Virginia Community College | 8 | 16.0% |
| Germanna Community College | 1 | 2.0% |
| Trade Schools: | | |
| Other | 2 | 4.0% |
| Total | 50 | 100.0% |

**6. Are you currently pursuing a bachelor's degree?**

| | | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | | 45 | 47.9 | ********** |
| No | | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| No response | | 46 | 48.9 | ********** |
| | TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**7. If not, what is your primary purpose for attending college?**

| | | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Personal interest | | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Professional development | | 1 | 1.1 | |
| Pursue a graduate degree | | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Satisfy a work requirement | | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Other | | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| No response | | 91 | 96.8 | ********** |
| | TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

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**8. What is your major field of study?**

| Graduate Major | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Business Administration | 12 | 23.5% |
| Computer Science | 4 | 7.8% |
| Art | 3 | 5.9% |
| Finance | 3 | 5.9% |
| History | 3 | 5.9% |
| Political Science | 3 | 5.9% |
| English | 2 | 3.9% |
| Math | 2 | 3.9% |
| Nursing | 2 | 3.9% |
| Social Science | 2 | 3.9% |
| Sociology | 2 | 3.9% |
| Anthropology | 1 | 2.0% |
| Biology | 1 | 2.0% |
| Communications | 1 | 2.0% |
| Drama | 1 | 2.0% |
| Education | 1 | 2.0% |
| Electrical Engineering | 1 | 2.0% |
| Fine Arts | 1 | 2.0% |
| Health Care Administration | 1 | 2.0% |
| Marketing | 1 | 2.0% |
| Music | 1 | 2.0% |
| Philosophy | 1 | 2.0% |
| Physical Education | 1 | 2.0% |
| Psychology | 1 | 2.0% |
| Total | 51 | 100.0% |

**9. How many credit hours have you earned at your new college?**

| Variable | Mean | Std.Dev. | Variance | Std Error of mean | Coeff of variation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Credit Hours | 26.97000 | 18.7873 | 352.961 | 1.93776 | 192.585 |
| | Minimum | Maximum | Range | Total | |
| | 4.00000 | 90.00000 | 86.00000 | 917.000 | |
| | Median | Mode | Skewness | Kurtosis | |
| | 25.00000 | 4.00000 | 2.49854 | 9.25460 | |

**10. What is your current grade point average (on a 4.0 scale)?**

| Variable | Mean | Std.Dev. | Variance | Std Error of mean | Coeff of variation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grade Point Avg. | 3.32000 | 1.68215 | 2.82965 | 0.173501 | 125.495 |
| | Minimum | Maximum | Range | Total | |
| | 1.80000 | 4.00000 | 2.20000 | 125.999 | |
| | Median | Mode | Skewness | Kurtosis | |
| | 3.40000 | 4.00000 | 0.536926 | 1.43653 | |

**11. To what extent is your bachelor's degree related to your PVCC degree program?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 19 | 20.2 | \|******** |
| Somewhat | 15 | 16.0 | \|******* |
| Very little | 8 | 8.5 | \|*** |
| Not at all | 1 | 1.1 | \| |
| No response | 51 | 54.3 | \|********** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |

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12. To what extent did your PVCC degree program prepare you academically for the bachelor's program?

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 21 | 22.3 | ********* |
| Somewhat | 16 | 17.0 | ******* |
| Very little | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| Not at all | 0 | 0.0 | |
| No response | 53 | 56.4 | ********************** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

13. Compared to students who started at your new school as freshmen, do you feel:

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Better prepared | 18 | 19.1 | ******** |
| About as well prepared | 14 | 14.9 | ****** |
| Less well prepared | 5 | 5.3 | ** |
| No response | 57 | 60.6 | ************************ |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

14. In relation to your current studies, how would you rate the level of academic preparation you received at PVCC?

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 16 | 17.0 | ******* |
| Good | 17 | 18.1 | ******* |
| Fair | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| Poor | 1 | 1.1 | |
| No response | 56 | 59.6 | ************************ |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

15. For each of the following aspects of college environment, please indicate whether PVCC has more, less, or about the same of a given aspect as your current college.

a. Degree of student competitiveness

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| PVCC has more | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| About the same | 23 | 24.5 | ********** |
| PVCC has less | 12 | 12.8 | ***** |
| No response | 56 | 59.6 | ************************ |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

b. Friendliness of faculty and staff

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| PVCC has more | 17 | 18.1 | ******* |
| About the same | 18 | 19.1 | ******** |
| PVCC has less | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| No response | 56 | 59.6 | ************************ |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

c. Individual attention shown to students

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| PVCC has more | 16 | 17.0 | ******* |
| About the same | 18 | 19.1 | ******** |
| PVCC has less | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| No response | 56 | 59.6 | ************************ |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |



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**d. Quality of instruction**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| PVCC has more | 6 | 6.4 | *** |
| About the same | 27 | 28.7 | ********** |
| PVCC has less | 5 | 5.3 | ** |
| No response | 56 | 59.6 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |

**e. Strictness of grading practices**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| PVCC has more | 6 | 6.4 | *** |
| About the same | 16 | 17.0 | ******* |
| PVCC has less | 16 | 17.0 | ******* |
| No response | 56 | 59.6 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |

**16. Did the credits you earned at PVCC transfer as you expected they would?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 33 | 35.1 | ********** |
| No | 8 | 8.5 | *** |
| No response | 53 | 56.4 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |

**17. How many credits, if any, were not accepted by your current college?**

| Variable | Mean | Std.Dev. | Variance | Std Error of mean | Coeff of variation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Credits not Accept | 2.96809 | 8.15238 | 66.4613 | 0.840854 | 274.668 |

| Minimum | Maximum | Range | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0.00000 | 51.00000 | 51.00000 | 279.000 |

| Median | Mode | Skewness | Kurtosis |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0.00000 | 0.00000 | 3.58156 | 17.2447 |

**18. Which courses were not accepted?** *(see individual surveys)*

**19. Was the college to which you transferred your:**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| First choice | 31 | 33.0 | ********** |
| Second choice | 5 | 5.3 | ** |
| Third choice | 0 | 0.0 | |
| None of the above | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| No response | 54 | 57.4 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |

**20. If you transferred to a public 4-year college in Virginia, how satisfied were you with the transfer process?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | 22 | 23.4 | ********* |
| Somewhat | 8 | 8.5 | *** |
| Very little | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| Not at all | 0 | 0.0 | |
| No response | 62 | 66.0 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |
| | 94 | | |

**21. Did you receive assistance from PVCC in transferring to your current college?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 22 | 23.4 | ********* |
| No | 15 | 16.0 | ****** |
| No response | 57 | 60.6 | ************************ |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**22. If yes, please rate the quality of assistance you received from each of the following sources:**

**a. Academic advising**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 8 | 8.5 | *** |
| Good | 10 | 10.6 | **** |
| Fair | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| Poor | 1 | 1.1 | |
| Not applicable | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| No response | 70 | 74.5 | ********************************** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**b. Academic program**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 7 | 7.4 | *** |
| Good | 11 | 11.7 | ***** |
| Fair | 1 | 1.1 | |
| Poor | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Not applicable | 5 | 5.3 | ** |
| No response | 70 | 74.5 | ********************************** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**c. Faculty**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 9 | 9.6 | **** |
| Good | 8 | 8.5 | *** |
| Fair | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| Poor | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Not applicable | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| No response | 70 | 74.5 | ********************************** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

## *Section III: Employment*

**1. Are you currently employed?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 74 | 78.7 | ************************************ |
| No | 19 | 20.2 | ********* |
| No response | 1 | 1.1 | |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**2. If not, are you seeking employment?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 10 | 10.6 | **** |
| No | 14 | 14.9 | ******* |
| No response | 70 | 74.5 | ********************************** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**3. Are you employed full-time or part-time?**

| | | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Full-time | | 58 | 61.7 | ********** |
| Part-time | | 13 | 13.8 | ** |
| No response | | 23 | 24.5 | ********** |
| | TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**4. On average, how many hours per week do you work?**

| | | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 01 to 10 hours | | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| 11 to 20 hours | | 5 | 5.3 | ** |
| 21 to 30 hours | | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| 31 to 40 hours | | 28 | 29.8 | ********** |
| 41 to 50 hours | | 28 | 29.8 | ********** |
| Over 50 hours | | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| No response | | 22 | 23.4 | ********** |
| | TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**5. What is your occupation?**

| Graduate Occupation | Frequency | Percent |
|---|---|---|
| Registered Nurse | 17 | 24.3% |
| Administrative Assistant | 6 | 8.6% |
| Retail Clerk | 4 | 5.7% |
| Sales Associate | 3 | 4.3% |
| Computer Operations Technician | 2 | 2.9% |
| Computer Programmer | 2 | 2.9% |
| Customer Service Representative | 2 | 2.9% |
| Data Entry Clerk | 2 | 2.9% |
| Electronics Technician | 2 | 2.9% |
| Medical Technologist | 2 | 2.9% |
| System Administrator | 2 | 2.9% |
| Waiter/Waitress | 2 | 2.9% |
| Accountant | 1 | 1.4% |
| Accounting Clerk | 1 | 1.4% |
| Accounts Payable Associate | 1 | 1.4% |
| Application Engineer | 1 | 1.4% |
| Bookkeeper | 1 | 1.4% |
| Cafeteria Worker | 1 | 1.4% |
| Caterer | 1 | 1.4% |
| CD Replication Technician | 1 | 1.4% |
| Electrician | 1 | 1.4% |
| Elementary Teacher | 1 | 1.4% |
| Equipment Operator | 1 | 1.4% |
| Equipment Repair Technician | 1 | 1.4% |
| Equipment Specialist | 1 | 1.4% |
| Financial Analyst | 1 | 1.4% |
| Fire Fighter | 1 | 1.4% |
| Hospital Accounts Collector | 1 | 1.4% |
| Office Manager | 1 | 1.4% |
| Police Detective | 1 | 1.4% |
| Police Dispatcher | 1 | 1.4% |
| Referral Specialist | 1 | 1.4% |
| Research Assistant | 1 | 1.4% |
| Retail Manager | 1 | 1.4% |
| State Trooper | 1 | 1.4% |
| Truck Driver | 1 | 1.4% |
| Total | 70 | 100.0% |

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**6. Which of the following occupational groups best describes the type of work you do?**

| | | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Administrative support | | 20 | 21.3 | ********* |
| Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing | | 1 | 1.1 | |
| Executive/Administrator/Mgr. | | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| Marketing/Sales | | 6 | 6.4 | *** |
| Operator/Fabricator/Laborer | | 3 | 3.2 | * |
| Precision/Production/Craft | | 1 | 1.1 | |
| Professional specialty worker | | 20 | 21.3 | ********* |
| Service worker | | 9 | 9.6 | **** |
| Technician | | 6 | 6.4 | *** |
| No response | | 25 | 26.6 | ********** |
| | TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |

**7. To what extent is your PVCC degree program related to your current occupation?**

| | | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | | 39 | 41.5 | ********** |
| Somewhat | | 14 | 14.9 | ****** |
| Very little | | 9 | 9.6 | **** |
| Not at all | | 9 | 9.6 | **** |
| No response | | 23 | 24.5 | ********** |
| | TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |

**8. To what extent do skills acquired in your PVCC degree program help you perform in the workplace?**

| | | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Very much | | 37 | 39.4 | ********** |
| Somewhat | | 20 | 21.3 | ********* |
| Very little | | 12 | 12.8 | ***** |
| Not at all | | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| No response | | 21 | 22.3 | ********* |
| | TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |

**9. Compared to other employees beginning their careers in your job field, do you feel:**

| | | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Better prepared | | 34 | 36.2 | ********** |
| About as well prepared | | 36 | 38.3 | ********** |
| Less well prepared | | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| No response | | 22 | 23.4 | ********* |
| | TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |

**10. In relation to your present job, how would you rate the level of academic preparation you received at PVCC?**

| | | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | | 26 | 27.7 | ********** |
| Good | | 30 | 31.9 | ********** |
| Fair | | 8 | 8.5 | *** |
| Poor | | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| No response | | 28 | 29.8 | ********** |
| | TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | 0 50 100 |

**11. Who is your employer?** *(see Employer Survey Results for the PVCC Graduating Class of 1995-96) .*

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**12. May we contact your employer to conduct an employer follow-up survey?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 47 | 50.0 | ********** |
| No | 22 | 23.4 | ***** |
| No response | 25 | 26.6 | ***** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**13. What is your exact job title?** *(see Employer Survey Results for the PVCC Graduating Class of 1995-96)*

**14. Would you say that your job is:**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Very satisfying | 22 | 23.4 | ***** |
| Satisfying | 33 | 35.1 | ******* |
| Not very satisfying | 14 | 14.9 | *** |
| Unsatisfying | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| No response | 23 | 24.5 | ***** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**15. Do you intend to pursue your current job as a long-term career?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 41 | 43.6 | ********** |
| No | 29 | 30.9 | ******* |
| No response | 24 | 25.5 | ***** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**16. When did you obtain your current job?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Before attending PVCC | 19 | 20.2 | **** |
| While attending PVCC | 22 | 23.4 | ***** |
| After attending PVCC | 31 | 33.0 | ******* |
| No response | 22 | 23.4 | ***** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**17. Did your degree from PVCC help you obtain your present job?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 34 | 36.2 | ******** |
| No | 36 | 38.3 | ******** |
| No response | 24 | 25.5 | ***** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**18. Has your degree helped you obtain a promotion in your present job?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 13 | 13.8 | *** |
| No | 55 | 58.5 | ********** |
| No response | 26 | 27.7 | ****** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**19. Did you participate in PVCC's Co-op program?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 17 | 18.1 | ******* |
| No | 55 | 58.5 | ********************** |
| No response | 22 | 23.4 | ********* |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**20. Did you receive career placement assistance from PVCC in obtaining your present job?**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| No | 67 | 71.3 | **************************** |
| No response | 23 | 24.5 | ********** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**21. If yes, please rate the quality of career placement assistance you received from each of the following sources:**

**a. Academic program**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| Good | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| Fair | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Poor | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Not applicable | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| No response | 84 | 89.4 | ********************************** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**b. Career services**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 1 | 1.1 | |
| Good | 1 | 1.1 | |
| Fair | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| Poor | 1 | 1.1 | |
| Not applicable | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| No response | 85 | 90.4 | ********************************** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**c. Co-op program**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 1 | 1.1 | |
| Good | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| Fair | 1 | 1.1 | |
| Poor | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Not applicable | 4 | 4.3 | ** |
| No response | 86 | 91.5 | ********************************** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

**d. Faculty**

| | Count | % | 0 50 100 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Excellent | 5 | 5.3 | ** |
| Good | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| Fair | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Poor | 0 | 0.0 | |
| Not applicable | 2 | 2.1 | * |
| No response | 85 | 90.4 | ********************************** |
| TOTAL | 94 | 100.0 | |

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**22. What is your annual salary?**

| Variable | Mean | Std.Dev. | Variance | Std Error of mean | Coeff of variation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Annual Salary | 24784.00 | 13709.0 | 187936557 | 1413.97 | 91.2201 |
| | Minimum | Maximum | Range | Total | |
| | 7000.00 | 40000.00 | 33000.00 | 1412677.00 | |
| | Median | Mode | Skewness | Kurtosis | |
| | 27000.00 | 30000.00 | 0.105169 | 1.45662 | |

**23. What would you estimate your annual salary to be if you had not attended PVCC?**

| Variable | Mean | Std.Dev. | Variance | Std Error of mean | Coeff of variation |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Estimated Salary | 20234.79 | 11890.0 | 141372253 | 1226.36 | 115.072 |
| | Minimum | Maximum | Range | Total | |
| | 7000.00 | 50000.00 | 43000.00 | 971270.00 | |
| | Median | Mode | Skewness | Kurtosis | |
| | 19000.00 | 0.00000 | 0.866815 | 3.09184 | |

*Section IV: Comments & Suggestions (see Appendix B)*

Appendix B: Graduate Comments

I enjoyed all aspects of the school. [I would prefer that the college offer] more courses in evenings, since some are only available in the day. Classrooms with little desks are not designed for 3 hour evening courses. Computer lab needs new computers! Weight room needs to be bigger so it can be open all school hours!

I think that PVCC has improved enormously over the years. My first contact was in 1983. Things have progressed a great deal since then. I think PVCC should focus on getting BS programs in addition to the adult degree programs already in existence. A career planning and placement office would be very useful to students. Each student should have an academic advisor.

[PVCC representatives should] display schedule (along with job application) at my employment location—UVA Health Sciences or other locations. PVCC representatives need to go to the workplaces & promote the school.

I want to have Cost Accounting & Intermediate Accounting classes taught in the day. Most employers would let students take the courses during the day. [PVCC representatives] really should perform survey on accounting student preferences in this area. This has not been done.

The quality of the faculty is excellent. [Three PVCC faculty members] were all great professors and I was fortunate to have been taught by them.

I find the level of instruction at JMU more difficult and in some ways I wish that PVCC had prepared me better.

Small classes provide a better education. By allowing more high school students to attend adds to bigger classes and less opportunity for those who want to go.

Overall I feel that PVCC prepared me very well for UVA. However, the amount of assigned reading for each course is still overwhelming to me. I am not sure what PVCC could realistically do to prepare its students for this shock. Again, my time at PVCC is invaluable to me in terms of academic preparation. Thank you.

After receiving a B.S. of Psychology I decided to pursue a nursing degree. The staff at PVCC is exceptional. I am currently working full-time as a fire fighter and part-time as a nurse. I feel fortunate that I was able to have such a wonderful and experienced staff guide my career path.

The faculty at PVCC was very friendly and helpful. [PVCC was] a caring environment. I wish I could have completed a 4-year program instead of a 2-year one.

PVCC gave me a chance to go to college and improve my life and future. Thank you very much.

Quite a few of the questions asked were aimed toward the Academic side of PVCC and not the technical side. I also think that PVCC and CATEC should gather all of their resources to form one apprenticeship program which includes academics, vocational, and technical.

As [indicated in the survey] above, I am very pleased with the services provided by PVCC.

The computer science program needs to be expanded to offer Computer Science I and II. Within the computer science areas, concepts need to be focused on more than just writing code.

I attended PVCC on Saturday for my English courses and my instructor was excellent for English Composition I and II. I cannot speak highly enough. I was sad to complete the program. I went back to college at 47 years of age and it took me 8 years to complete. I must admit that I met some very interesting, sincere and wonderful fellow students and instructors along the way. Thank you PVCC.

I very much enjoyed and benefited from my experience at PVCC and recommend PVCC to anyone I know who is considering returning to school.

PVCC was a great experience. Thanks to all!

Overall, I am pleased with the way the faculty has treated me as a student. I appreciate what [PVCC counselors did] to help me during my years at PVCC.

As an older student returning to school after a long hiatus, PVCC helped me to polish old skills and learn new ones. My professors at PVCC were outstanding and I attribute a great deal of my current success at UVA to them.

One thing that would help would be to have more advising take place. I was bothered that I had to take a lot of social science and science classes in addition to the degree that I transferred to ODU. I would have gone for an AAS had I known this would happen. Counselors should question students about future plans so that they would be able to take the best route to meet needs.

The biggest and best suggestion I could offer is that students be required to take and be offered more computer classes. When I came to JMU, I was woefully unprepared because about everything is computerized, particularly the library resources. Also, make sure students learn how to access and use the Internet. Class bulletin boards and E-mail are very big at JMU! Also the workload for courses at JMU is at least twice that of most courses at PVCC. The exceptions are PVCC honors courses, which I'm so glad I took, because they helped prepare me for that huge workload. Also they were some of the best courses I took at PVCC, due to the quality of instructors, class size, and the critical thinking skills they help me to hone. One final thought...most instructors I have had thus far at JMU are nowhere near the quality of instructors at PVCC. [PVCC faculty members] are true educators and PVCC is fortunate to have them. The feeling that, as a student, I got while at PVCC was that education was the number one priority. One does not get that same feeling at JMU, and we as students are the poorer for it. Keep up the good work! A grateful PVCC alum.

I was very fortunate to have dedicated and caring mentors for teachers and advisers. Nearly all my interactions with the staff were pleasant and productive. The more mature students were rewarding and challenging to work with. Encouragement and positive attitudes enhanced and supported my sojourn. I was ever grateful for the experience.

I would prefer a choice between "required" classes that are not degree related.

I believe that the internship I participated in [as part of] PVCC's nursing program is what helped me get my job. I knew the people who hired me and I currently work on the floor that I served my internship on.

I had a wonderful experience at PVCC. I would love to come back to take more classes. The teachers were great!

My experience with PVCC was very rewarding. I had heard great outcomes from nurses before starting the program. I'm very pleased with the outcome for myself. I feel the nursing program taught me what was needed for starting my career.

The nursing program needs to update videos they use, and their equipment for validating procedures. Also we needed real veni-puncture experience, not a fake arm with hundreds of holes in.

The nursing program prepared me very well for my current job. Excellent basic skills. Great faculty!

I absolutely loved attending PVCC. The nursing school is superb. The instructors were excellent. I wouldn't trade my PVCC experience to have gone anywhere in the US.

I think PVCC needs to incorporate the computerized accounting software that businesses are using. You can get an accounting degree without knowing anything about computerized accounting. Also students need to know what kind of jobs businesses in the area have to offer.

I'm called a graduate and alumni after receiving a C.S.C. (12 credit hours). I am honored, thank you, and I'm still attending PVCC and hope to graduate again.

[Piedmont] needs the Administration of Justice to program to come in line with Virginia four-year colleges.

I loved my experiences at PVCC. I really enjoyed having [PVCC faculty member] as a biology professor. He's very caring and that was important. I received the teaching job due to my degree, but the job place didn't suit me nor the salary at the present time. I'm planning to go back into teaching.

[PVCC needs to] provide more activities for students to get involved, such as political groups, academic interests, etc....in order to keep more students on campus longer and provide more of a college community so students and faculty can get to know each other better. Also, provide more tutors for more subjects for longer hours.

I wish there had been an honors accounting and an honors economics course offered. A strong foundation in accounting is very important and I wish a more rigorous course had been offered. [The college needs to] increase workload; and assist students in the timing on when to take courses. I wish I had taken my statistics class right before I went to UVA, because I had forgotten a lot. Public speaking class was good preparation for the commerce school.

Thanks for everything. You guys will see me around for awhile though. I have got to knock out some prerequisites so I can transfer to a four-year college.

I think [PVCC faculty member] is doing an outstanding job should be commended for it.

I had a great time at PVCC. PVCC is doing a very good job of educating its students.

PVCC was an excellent experience for me. As an adult student returning to school after more than ten years, I felt welcomed, encouraged, and recognized as far as life experience. I will always look back at my experiences as a PVCC student as having been positive and definitely worthwhile.

My experience at PVCC was very good, and I learned a lot. It helped me figure out problems on my own.

For a community college, PVCC has a very good art emphasis. After attending other community colleges, I can appreciate the gallery, the range of art classes, and the studios. Also, PVCC has excellent instructors. However, I think the faculty overall could be more available outside of class. More student-community involvement should be encouraged (like requiring attendance of concerts or other cultural events or community service) for graduation.

I thought everything was fine.

My experiences with PVCC both personally and academically were extremely positive and quality ones. [The college has] first rate faculty members.

PVCC was a great stepping stone in my quest for a baccalaureate degree. I think that the college on a whole underwent a major transformation [during the time] I was there from 1992 - 1996. The only suggestion I can think of is adding a physical education two-year preparatory course to help teacher PE majors. God bless your efforts.

I found the grading too easy, compared to my courses in the '60s. When I got my BS I had a 2.1 GPA. At PVCC my GPA was 4.0. I hope I've gotten smarter, but not that much.

The only difference I have noted is my attitude and determination. My study habits have changed considerably because I'm now focused on pursuing a particular career.

In general, I think PVCC is a wonderful school because [it has] a very nice and friendly environment in addition to the great and wonderful faculty and staff. However we need to expand on the academic advising part (that was what I didn't have at all) and/or add at least one computer language to each curriculum. Emphasis on research in science and other fields is a plus (it can be an option) because it will prepare students who want to continue their education.

PVCC was a great learning experience. I feel they need to expand the majors for those with unique interests.

PVCC is great!! We just need to do a campaign sharing all the wonderful things that are happening. We can do this by some sort of community outreach program, or perhaps a commercial showing the difference a PVCC education makes!! Thanks!!

Overall my experience was good. I was very disappointed with the counseling office and staff. The same day I received this questionnaire I had a problem with the records department. My transcripts were sent to JMU during the semester rather than after grades were posted for a class I was taking that semester. This is not the first time I have had to call this office to make sure they did their jobs correctly.

The invaluable skills of writing clearly and succinctly and research skills learned at PVCC prepared me well for my current position at UVA. The design and art skills learned at PVCC have increased my skill and value as a medical illustrator. The genuine caring, personal assistance, encouragement, and guidance of PVCC professors helped to give me the courage and confidence I need daily. [Attending PVCC was a] wonderful experience!!

Piedmont was an excellent stepping stone to UVA. I was caught a little off guard in terms of the amount of work, but I have not fallen behind. PVCC prepared me to work hard, as well as, to become friendly with very intimidating faculty people. I am grateful for PVCC for all that I learned.

Appendix C: Cover Letter

January 15, 1997

[Graduate Name]
[Street Address]
[City, State Zip]

Dear [Graduate] :

One of the best sources of information available to Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) is the follow-up survey of graduates which we conduct each year. The results of the survey are used in deciding which programs to offer and in determining how well the college serves both its students and the community.

I encourage you to participate in this year's study. It will only take about ten minutes of your time and your responses will be strictly confidential. We are particularly interested in your insights concerning the value of a PVCC education and how well it prepared you for either your current job or your present course of study at another college.

Another valuable source of information is our annual survey of employers, which allows us to determine employer satisfaction with PVCC programs of study and its graduates. If you are currently employed, we need your consent to include your employer among those we survey. Please complete the enclosed authorization form and return it with your questionnaire.

For your convenience, I am enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope. We sincerely appreciate your participation in this important study and look forward to receiving your completed survey.

Sincerely,

Khan M. Hassan, Coordinator
Institutional Research & Learning Services

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Appendix D: Survey Instrument

**Piedmont Virginia Community College**
**Follow-up Survey of Graduates for the Class of 1995-96**

*Instructions:* Please check the appropriate box(es) for each question and answer all questions that apply to you. This information will be treated as strictly confidential with answers being combined for group analysis.

Graduate: *[Graduate Name]* Student ID: *[Graduate SSN]*

***Section I: PVCC Experience***

1. To what extent were you satisfied with each of the following college services provided by PVCC?

| | Very much | Somewhat | Very little | Not at all | Not applicable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Career services | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Computing Lab | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Financial aid | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Learning Center | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Library services | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Personal counseling | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Registration services | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Student activities | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

2. Overall, how satisfied were you with the quality of college services provided by PVCC?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

3. To what extent were you satisfied with each of the following aspects of your academic program?

| | Very much | Somewhat | Very little | Not at all |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Academic advising | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Course availability | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Course materials | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Faculty | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Grading | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Instruction | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Learning environment | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

4. To what extent were you satisfied with your relationship with faculty outside of class?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

5. Overall, how satisfied were you with the quality of your academic program at PVCC?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

6. To what extent did your PVCC education contribute to your ability to:

| | Very much | Somewhat | Very little | Not at all |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Reason logically | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Research a topic | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Solve problems | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Speak clearly & effectively | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Understand & use computers | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Understand & use math | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Write clearly & effectively | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

7. To what extent did your PVCC education prepare you for responsible citizenship (e.g., make you better informed about your community and the political process)?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

*(Continued on back)*

8. Were you employed while attending PVCC? ☐ Yes ☐ No

9. If yes, how many hours per week on average did you work?
☐ 1 to 10 hours ☐ 31 to 40 hours
☐ 11 to 20 hours ☐ 41 to 50 hours
☐ 21 to 30 hours ☐ Over 50 hours

10. Did you borrow money to pay for tuition, books, and other educational expenses while attending PVCC?
☐ Yes ☐ No

11. If yes, how much did you borrow?
☐ $ 1 - $1,000 ☐ $3,001 - $4,000
☐ $1,001 - $2,000 ☐ $4,001 - $5,000
☐ $2,001 - $3,000 ☐ Over $5,000

## *Section II: Further Education*

1. Are you currently enrolled in college? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. If not, do you have plans to enroll during the coming year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

***(If not currently enrolled in college, skip to Section III: Employment)***

3. Are you attending college full-time or part-time? ☐ Full-time ☐ Part-time

4. What type of college are you attending? ***(Please check one from each column)***
☐ 2-year ☐ Public ☐ In-state
☐ 4-year ☐ Private ☐ Out-of-state
☐ Other _____
*(Please list)*

5. What college are you attending? _____

6. Are you currently pursuing a bachelor's degree? ☐ Yes ☐ No

7. If not, what is your primary purpose for attending college?
☐ Personal interest
☐ Professional development
☐ Pursue a graduate degree
☐ Satisfy a work requirement
☐ Other _____
*(Please list)*

***(If not currently pursuing a bachelor's degree, skip to Section III: Employment)***

8. What is your major field of study? _____

9. How many credit hours have you earned at your new college? _____

10. What is your current grade point average (on a 4.0 scale)? _____

11. To what extent is your bachelor's degree related to your PVCC degree program?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

12. To what extent did your PVCC degree program prepare you academically for the bachelor's program?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

13. Compared to students who started at your new school as freshmen, do you feel:
☐ Better prepared ☐ About as well prepared ☐ Less well prepared

14. In relation to your current studies, how would you rate the level of academic preparation you received at PVCC?
☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

15. For each of the following aspects of college environment, please indicate whether PVCC has more, less, or about the same of a given aspect as your current college.

| | PVCC has more | About the same | PVCC has less |
|---|---|---|---|
| Degree of student competitiveness | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Friendliness of faculty and staff | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Individual attention shown to students | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Quality of instruction | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Strictness of grading practices | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

16. Did the credits you earned at PVCC transfer as you expected they would? ☐ Yes ☐ No

17. How many credits, if any, were not accepted by your current college? _____

18. Which courses were not accepted? _____ _____

_____ _____ _____

19. Was the college to which you transferred your: ☐ First choice ☐ Third choice
☐ Second choice ☐ None of the above

20. If you transferred to a public 4-year college in Virginia, how satisfied were you with the transfer process?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

21. Did you receive assistance from PVCC in transferring to your current college? ☐ Yes ☐ No

22. If yes, please rate the quality of assistance you received from each of the following sources:

| | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Not Applicable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Academic advising | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Academic program | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Faculty | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

## *Section III: Employment*

1. Are you currently employed? ☐ Yes ☐ No

2. If not, are you seeking employment? ☐ Yes ☐ No

***(If not currently employed, please skip to Section IV: Comments & Suggestions)***

3. Are you employed full-time or part-time? ☐ Full-time ☐ Part-time

4. On average, how many hours per week do you work? ☐ 1 to 10 hours ☐ 31 to 40 hours
☐ 11 to 20 hours ☐ 41 to 50 hours
☐ 21 to 30 hours ☐ Over 50 hours

5. What is your current occupation? _____

6. Which of the following occupational groups best describes the type of work you do?

☐ Administrative support ☐ Marketing/Sales ☐ Professional specialty workers
☐ Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing ☐ Operators/Fabricators/Laborers ☐ Service workers
☐ Executive/Administrator/Manager ☐ Precision/Production/Craft/Repair ☐ Technicians

7. To what extent is your PVCC degree program related to your current occupation?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

8. To what extent do skills acquired in your PVCC degree program help you perform in the workplace?
☐ Very much ☐ Somewhat ☐ Very little ☐ Not at all

9. Compared to other employees beginning their careers in your job field, do you feel:
☐ Better prepared ☐ About as well prepared ☐ Less well prepared

10. In relation to your present job, how would you rate the level of academic preparation you received at PVCC?
☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

11. Who is your employer? _____

12. May we contact your employer to conduct an employer follow-up survey? ☐ Yes ☐ No

***(If yes, please remember to complete, sign, and return the enclosed Contact Authorization Form)***

13. What is your exact job title? _____

14. Would you say that your job is:
☐ Very Satisfying ☐ Satisfying ☐ Not very satisfying ☐ Unsatisfying

15. Do you intend to pursue your current job as a long-term career? ☐ Yes ☐ No

16. When did you obtain your current job?
☐ Before attending PVCC ☐ While attending PVCC ☐ After attending PVCC

17. Did your degree from PVCC help you obtain your present job? ☐ Yes ☐ No

18. Has your degree helped you obtain a promotion in your present job? ☐ Yes ☐ No

19. Did you participate in PVCC's Co-op program? ☐ Yes ☐ No

20. Did you receive career placement assistance from PVCC in obtaining your present job? ☐ Yes ☐ No

21. If yes, please rate the quality of career placement assistance you received from each of the following sources:

| | Excellent | Good | Fair | Poor | Not Applicable |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Academic program | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Career services | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Co-op program | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Faculty | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

22. What is your annual salary? _____

23. What would you estimate your annual salary to be if you had not attended PVCC? _____

## *Section IV: Comments & Suggestions*

In the space provided, please express comments or suggestions concerning any aspect of your PVCC experience. We are particularly interested in how we can improve our curriculum and services. Thank you for your participation.

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# PVCC INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH BRIEF

Brief No. 2000-5

March 2000

## Results of the Follow-Up Survey of PVCC Graduates of the Class of 1995-96

This brief highlights key findings reported in the *Follow-Up Survey of PVCC Graduates of the Class of 1995-96* (PVCC Institutional Research Report No. 3-2000, March 2000). The Class of 1995-96 includes students graduating from PVCC during Summer Term 1995, Fall Semester 1995, and Spring Semester 1996. Graduates were surveyed during the spring of 1997 to determine what jobs they had obtained, which schools they were attending, how much they earned, how satisfied they were with their employment or schooling, and what impact PVCC had upon their careers and education.

Major findings of this study included:

- Graduates were very satisfied with the quality of college services. An overwhelming majority of survey respondents (98.9%) were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the quality of services provided by PVCC.

- Graduates also were satisfied with the quality of their academic programs. An overwhelming majority of respondents (98.9%) indicated that they were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the quality of their academic program at PVCC.

- Graduates were pleased with the skills they developed while attending PVCC. More than eight out of ten respondents believed that their PVCC education had contributed to their ability to research a topic (91.1%), solve problems (89.3%), write clearly and effectively (87.9%), understand and use math (87.2%), reason logically (87.2%), understand and use computers (85.1%), and speak clearly and effectively (82.6%).

- Wage earnings were a primary source of financial support for 1995-96 graduates. Nearly nine out of ten respondents (89.3%) were employed while attending PVCC. Only about two out of ten respondents (21.1%) borrowed money to finance their PVCC education.

- About half of all respondents (49.4%) were enrolled in a postsecondary institution at the time of the survey. Most attended public (81.0%), four-year (79.1%) institutions located within the Commonwealth of Virginia (97.5%). In fact, nearly half (44.0%) of all enrolled respondents chose to continue their education at James Madison University, Mary Baldwin College, or The University of Virginia.

- About eight out of ten respondents (79.2%) felt that their bachelor's program was very much or somewhat related to their PVCC degree program. The most popular fields of study were Business Administration (23.5%), Computer Science (7.8%), Art (5.9%), Finance (5.9%), History (5.9%), and Political Science (5.9%).

- Academically, 1995-96 graduates performed quite well at the postsecondary institutions to which they transferred. Enrolled respondents earned a mean grade point average of 3.32 at their respective colleges.

*(continued on back)*

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- For the most part, graduates were pleased with the level of academic preparation they received at PVCC. More than eight out of ten enrolled respondents (86.3%) believed that they were either better prepared, or about as well prepared, as students who started at transfer institutions as freshmen. More than eight out of ten respondents (86.9%) felt that the level of academic preparation they received at PVCC was either excellent or good.

- Graduates were satisfied with the transfer process. Eight out of ten enrolled respondents (80.5%) indicated that the credits they earned at PVCC transferred as expected. More than three-fourths of enrolled respondents (77.5%) indicated that the institution to which they transferred was their first choice. More than nine out of ten enrolled respondents (93.8%) who transferred to public four-year colleges in Virginia were either very much or somewhat satisfied with the transfer process.

- For the most part, graduates were pleased with the quality of transfer assistance received at PVCC. Nearly six out of ten enrolled respondents (59.4%) received assistance from PVCC in transferring to their current college. Of those who received assistance, more than seven out of ten rated the quality of assistance they received from academic advisors (74.9%), their academic programs (74.9%), and faculty (71.0%) as either excellent or good.

- Nearly eight out of ten survey respondents (79.6%) were employed at the time of the survey. More than eight out of ten employed respondents (81.7%) worked full time. More than three-fourths of survey respondents (76.8%) were employed in jobs related to their fields of study at PVCC.

- Graduates were employed in a wide range of occupations. The most frequently cited positions were Registered Nurse or Nurse Manager (24.3%), Administrative Assistant (8.6%), Retail Clerk (5.7%), and Sales Associate (4.3%). More than three-fourths of survey respondents (77.5%) were either very satisfied or satisfied with their current jobs; and nearly six out of ten (58.5%) planned to pursue their current jobs as long-range careers.

- For the most part, 1995-96 graduates felt that PVCC provided them with the tools necessary to be effective in the workplace. An overwhelming majority (97.3%) felt that they were either better prepared, or about as well prepared, as others beginning careers in their job field. More than eight out of ten respondents (84.9%) indicated that the academic preparation they received at PVCC was either excellent or good.

- Attending PVCC had a positive impact on the job prospects and earnings of many 1995-96 graduates. About half of employed respondents (48.6%) felt that their degree from PVCC helped them to obtain their current job, and nearly two out of ten (19.1%) believed that their degree helped them to obtain a promotion in their current job. The average annual salary earned by employed respondents was $24,784. On average, respondents estimated that their salaries would have been $4,549 lower if they had not attended PVCC.

The PVCC learning experience means many things to many different students. However, the following statement, written by one of the 1995-96 graduate survey respondents in the Comments and Suggestions section of the survey, is indicative of the way many graduates feel about their PVCC experience.

> I very much enjoyed and benefited from my experience at PVCC and recommend PVCC to anyone I know who is considering returning to school.